

successfully integrating the 6th Infantry Division—Light—into the Fairbanks community. He fostered strong community relationships which endure today. Under General Ebbesen's tenure, the 6th Infantry Division achieved safety records which were unsurpassed in the United States Army at that time. This record was achieved in spite of adverse and difficult climatic conditions. He ensured that the 6th Infantry Division were pivotal players in the U.S. Pacific Command's Expanded Relations Program throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Further, General Ebbesen significantly improved quality of life for those soldiers and their families stationed throughout Alaska.

Additionally, General Ebbesen served as the Deputy Chief, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, United States Army, Washington, DC; Chief of Staff, I Corps, Fort Lewis, WA; commander, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, Fort Campbell, KY; Deputy Chief, Plans and Operations Division, and later Executive Officer, Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Army, Washington, DC; and Commander, 2d Battalion, 32 Infantry, 7th Infantry Division; Executive Officer, 2d Brigade, 7th Infantry Division; and G3, 7th Infantry Division, Fort Ord, CA.

General Ebbesen's military awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit—with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device—with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal—with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal and Army Commendation Medal—with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters. His combat assignment and training resulted in the award of the Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge, and Air Assault Badge. He is authorized to wear the Army General Staff Identification Badge and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge.

Mr. President, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in saluting General Ebbesen for his distinguished service to this great Nation and to the great State of Alaska, as well as his superb leadership of the men and women of our Armed Forces. It is with great pride that I congratulate him upon his retirement and wish him the very best.

MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to draw my colleague's attention to the outstanding efforts and hard work of the men and women of the U.S. Maritime Administration. I want to offer my own heartfelt thanks to those individuals for their hard work and dedication in swiftly implementing the Maritime Security Act.

The Maritime Security Act, which was approved by the Senate on September 24, and signed into law by the President on October 8 last year. It will

ensure the continued viability of the U.S.-flag merchant marine. It will guarantee that there will be an adequate number of private-sector, U.S.-flag vessels on hand for the Department of Defense in times of war or national emergency. Our Nation will continue to support a base of maritime employment to provide trained, loyal U.S.-citizen merchant mariners to crew the Department of Defense's Ready Reserve fleet of sealift vessels.

Quite simply, without this legislation the United States might have lost its merchant marine. Some of our Nation's most honored former military leaders let us know last year, in no uncertain terms, just how costly that would be. Our Armed Forces are counting on the U.S.-flag merchant marine to bring them the supplies they need to sustain their operations on hostile shores. If history has taught us one lesson, Mr. President, we should hold a deep appreciation for the importance of the U.S.-flag merchant marine to our Nation's security. That is why the outstanding efforts of the Maritime Administration deserves recognition.

In the days following enactment of the Maritime Security Act, the staff of the Maritime Administration worked tirelessly to iron out the contracts between the Government and the individual U.S.-flag vessel operators. This is the backbone of the Maritime Security Program.

At the same time, MARAD staff coordinated their efforts with the Department of Defense. This ensured that only the most modern and most militarily useful U.S.-flag vessels are chosen for the Maritime Security Program. These efforts will enhance our national defense capabilities.

The first contracts were signed last month, just before the holidays. And, I am pleased to report to my colleagues that the final contracts were just recently signed. In just 4 months, the complete 47-ship Maritime Security Fleet has become a reality. We have MARAD to thank for taking our vision and translating it into a viable program.

I want to recognize the Administrator of MARAD, Vice Adm. Albert J. Herberger. His firm leadership at the helm of his agency has been exemplary. Vice Admiral Herberger is widely respected in the maritime industry, and his abilities as a manager, a negotiator and an administrator, coupled with his extensive military experience, played a major role in implementing this legislation.

The implementation of the Maritime Security Program also required the efforts of many MARAD employees. I want to take a moment to recognize several workers by name: Debra Aheron, Ray Barberesi, Murray Bloom, Joan Bondareff, Cher Brooks, Thomas Bryan, Jim Caponiti, Veronica Carver, Sharon Cassidy, Rhonda Davis, William Ebersold, John Graykowski, Steven Jackson, William Kurfels, John Lesnick, Richard McDonnell, Jeffrey

McMahon, Robert Patton, Carol Powell, John Swank, Kenneth Willis, and Joan Yim.

To conclude, Mr. President, I would like to add that the Maritime Administration will continue to administer the Maritime Security Program throughout the 10-year life of the Maritime Security Act. Although the work from the good folks at MARAD is just the beginning, we should honor their efforts. They have done so much to ensure that the American flag will still fly in the world's sea lanes. American merchant mariners will be on the decks of those ships. And, our Armed Forces will have the necessary strategic sealift capability to project America's presence overseas.

Thank you, MARAD.

RETIREMENT OF PROCTOR JONES

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, today marks the last day for one of the Senate's most competent and skilled legislative aides. Proctor Jones, staff director of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development has spent the last 36 years helping to assure the legislative process moves forward. I know I am just one of many who are grateful for his guidance on a wide array of energy issues.

During his tenure in the Senate he has gained a reputation for doing his homework, having a deep understanding for the appropriations process, and perhaps most important, fairness. He was invaluable in securing major projects for my home State of Kentucky, and I feel certain his handprint can be found on important projects all across the country.

Jones leaves the Senate with an incredible body of knowledge, expertise and institutional knowledge. He also leaves after literally being the right hand of such powerful chairmen as Senators Russell, Ellender, McClellan, Magnuson, Stennis, BYRD and Hatfield.

It will be a huge loss to the Senate and to States like mine that have benefited from his knowledge and expertise. But there's no doubt that Jones will continue to serve the greater community working with former Senator Johnston.

Let me close by wishing him and his family the best of luck and by once again thanking him for his commitment not only to the U.S. Senate, but to the American people. His service will not be forgotten and will continue to impact generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL TSONGAS

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, last week, America lost a public servant and a leader of unusual intelligence and vision. It is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to my former colleague and friend, Paul Tsongas, whose untimely passing has deeply affected both those who knew him well and the millions of Americans who respected and admired his exemplary life.